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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

ADVISORY

To: Heads of Fire Departments
From: Stephen D. Coan, State Fire Marshal
Date: **June 30, 2015**
Re: **Hazardous Materials Response for air monitoring at fires**

Effective immediately, a Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Response Team may be requested for certain fires for the purpose of providing monitoring and detection for toxic products of combustion. The purpose of air monitoring is to protect fire fighters and the public from extreme hazards and provide risk information to the Incident Commander.

An enhanced Tier 1 Response for Air Monitoring may be requested for the following fire conditions:

- A major structure or transportation vessel (truck, ship, or intermodal container) fire known to contain bulk chemicals and/or plastics and/or foams capable of producing highly toxic products of combustion.
- Any major structure fire expected to produce a sustained heavy smoke condition effecting an “at risk population” which cannot reasonably be evacuated.

Response should be requested through the **State Hazmat Control Center** by calling **877-385-0822** (X1 for western counties, X2 for Worcester County and East). Specify Tier 1 response for fire air monitoring when requesting assistance.

Hazmat teams will conduct local and wide area air monitoring and advise the Incident Commander of the nature and severity of respiratory hazard to fire fighters and the public. This information is to aid in decision making relative to protective actions and for risk communication regarding concerns for exposure to toxic inhalation hazards.

Under M.G.L. Ch. 21K., responsible parties may be billed for cost recovery by DFS. Communities and Fire Departments WILL NOT be charged for these services provided by the Department of Fire Services.

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy